process of selection of producers for allotment of such programmes at Guwahati Kendra was challenged in Guwahati High Court. However, the matter has not come up for hearing as yet and remains sub-judice.

On-going hearing against Shaw Wallace Company Ltd.

4562. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Shaw Wallace and Company has filed form 23AA under Section 209(1) of the Companies Act on 19th June, 1998 before Registrar of Companies, Calcutta to move the books and accounts/records of the company from its registered office at Calcutta;

(b) whether Government have intervened to stop this in view of the ongoing hearing against the company before the Company Law Board; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Shaw Wallace & Co. Limited has filed form No. 23AA with the Registrar of Companies, Calcutta on 19.6.98, in terms of Section 209(1) of the Companies Act, intimating that the Board of Directors of the company have decided, vide resolution dated 1.6.98 to keep the books of accounts of the company at the premises in Bank of Baroda building, IInd Floor, 3-Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai. There is no provision in the Companies Act, 1956 to stop the company from keeping the books of accounts at a place other than the registered office when once the requisite resolution of the Board is passed and the intimation thereof is filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Electoral reforms

4563. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electoral reforms are to be introduced to bring about stability and an unfractured mandate from the electorate in the country; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) No decision has yet been taken to change the present electoral system by some other system. The Government would, however, consider giving effect to such proposals on electoral reforms on which there is concensus amongst political parties.

Workshop on 'Access to Justice'

4564. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop on 'access to justice' inaugurated by the Attorney General of India, was held at Bangalore;

(b) what observations about the inefficacy of judicial system were made in the workshop and what were the main suggestions made to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the system; and

(c) the number of vacancies of judges of High Courts and Supreme Court lying at present and the backlog of cases pending with each court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The workshop observed that dilatory tactics adopted by lawyers, frequent adjournments, judicial absenteeism, failure of some Judges to